

PROVIDING FOR AN INVESTIGATION OF THE NEED FOR
A GEOPHYSICAL INSTITUTE IN THE TERRITORY OF
HAWAII

JUNE 27, 1956.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State
of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. ENGLE, from the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H. J. Res. 643]

The Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, to whom was referred the joint resolution (H. J. Res. 643) to provide for an investigation of the need for a geophysical institute in the Territory of Hawaii, having considered the same, report favorable thereon without amendment and recommend that the joint resolution do pass.

EXPLANATION OF THE BILL

The purpose of House Joint Resolution 643, introduced by Delegate Farrington, of Hawaii, is to authorize and direct the National Science Foundation to conduct an investigation into the need for and the feasibility and usefulness of a geophysical institute located in the Territory of Hawaii.

Originally, Delegate Farrington introduced H. R. 7754, a bill to authorize an appropriation for the establishment of a geophysical institute at the University of Hawaii. Reports on H. R. 7754 were requested of and subsequently received from the appropriate executive departments. Because of the amount of research required by the National Science Foundation in preparing its report on H. R. 7754, the committee members felt that it would be advisable to substitute House Joint Resolution 643 for H. R. 7754 and thus enable the submission of a more comprehensive report. Although section 3 authorizes the use of Federal funds for the implementation of the resolution, the National Science Foundation assured the committee that no extra appropriation of Government funds will be required by the enactment of the legislation.

2 INVESTIGATE NEED FOR A GEOPHYSICAL INSTITUTE IN HAWAII

The Department of Commerce and Department of the Air Force reports on H. R. 7754 dated June 6, 1956, April 18, 1956, and the reports on House Joint Resolution 643 from the National Science Foundation and the Bureau of the Budget dated July 26 and July 25, 1956, respectively, are as follows:

THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE,
Washington, D. C., June 6, 1956.

HON. CLAIR ENGLE,
*Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This is in reply to your request of November 25, 1955, for the views of this Department with respect to H. R. 7754, a bill to authorize an appropriation for the establishment of a geophysical institute at the University of Hawaii.

The bill authorizes the construction and establishment of a geophysical institute at the University of Hawaii, Territory of Hawaii. The bill, among other things, provides that matters of institute policy shall be determined by a director by and with the advice of an advisory committee. The director is to be appointed by the board of regents of the University of Hawaii upon the approval of the President of the National Academy of Sciences. The advisory committee is to be appointed by the President of the National Academy of Sciences after consultation with the president of the university.

A geophysical institute situated in Hawaii would be concerned with those fields of geophysics which are uniquely related to its geographical location, such as oceanography, volcanology, seismology, geomagnetism, and many phases of meteorology. Such an institute would be of benefit to this Department's National Bureau of Standards, Weather Bureau, and Coast and Geodetic Survey. These Bureaus are directly concerned with the observation and collection of data relating to the geophysical sciences.

However, under the National Science Foundation Act of 1950 the National Science Foundation has the legal authority to consider and support facilities for the furtherance of basic research such as proposed in this bill. It is believed, therefore, that the specific need for the institute should more properly be examined by the Foundation in the context of need at other locations and in other fields of science.

Therefore, although this Department is in accord with the objectives of this legislation, we would defer to the views of the National Science Foundation with respect to the specific need for the institute.

We have been advised by the Bureau of the Budget that it would interpose no objection to the submission of this report to your committee.

Sincerely yours,

SINCLAIR WEEKS,
Secretary of Commerce.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, D. C., April 18, 1956.

Hon. CLAIR ENGLE,
*Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Reference is made to your request for the views of the Department of Defense with respect to H. R. 7754, 84th Congress, a bill to authorize an appropriation for the establishment of a geophysical institute at the University of Hawaii. The Secretary of Defense has delegated to this Department the responsibility for expressing the views of the Department of Defense.

The purpose of the proposed legislation is to authorize the appropriation of \$1 million for the construction and establishment of a geophysical institute at the University of Hawaii, Territory of Hawaii. The bill also considers certain matters such as the location of the institute, how the funds appropriated may be expended, the appointment of a director of the institute and an advisory committee to the director, and provides the director and advisory committee with exclusive jurisdiction over all moneys received by the institute from public or private sources.

The Department of the Air Force on behalf of the Department of Defense interposes no objection to the enactment of H. R. 7754.

Within the Department of Defense, geophysics embraces the fields of meteorology, oceanography, geography, earth physics, cartography, and geodesy. Any scientific accomplishment in the fields of oceanography, gravity, geomagnetism, and seismology by the proposed institute would materially aid in increasing the technical and scientific knowledge of and benefit the Department of Defense.

The Department of Defense is currently carrying out a relatively small amount of geophysical research in Hawaii using existing contractors, and has experienced satisfactory results in getting needed research accomplished in this fashion. If the subject geophysical institute should be established and adequately staffed, it is possible that the Department of Defense would utilize the institute for research on selected geophysical problems.

The enactment of this proposal will have no budgetary effect insofar as the Department of Defense is concerned.

This report has been coordinated within the Department of Defense in accordance with procedures prescribed by the Secretary of Defense.

The Bureau of the Budget advises that there is no objection to the submission of this report.

Sincerely yours,

DONALD A. QUARLES.

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION,
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR,
Washington, D. C., June 26, 1956.

Hon. CLAIR ENGLE,
*Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.*

DEAR MR. ENGLE: This is in reply to your letter of June 11, 1956, requesting the comments of the National Science Foundation with

regard to House Joint Resolution 643, a joint resolution to provide for an investigation of the need for a geophysical institute in the Territory of Hawaii.

The Foundation has authority under the National Science Foundation Act of 1950 (Public Law 507, 81st Cong., 2d sess.) to conduct an investigation into the need for, and the feasibility and usefulness of, a geophysical institute in the Territory of Hawaii. However, House Joint Resolution 643 specifically directs the National Science Foundation to conduct such an investigation and report the results of its investigation to the Congress within 9 months.

Geophysics, the study of the physics of the earth and its atmosphere, requires observations of various phenomena over large areas. The Hawaiian Island chain would appear to provide unique opportunities for specialized geophysical observations, as it is the center of an area of about 2,500 miles radius where at present very few observations can be made, except by oceanographic vessels. However, the need for an institute in Hawaii must be considered in the light of similar needs in the United States and its Territories. For this reason, we believe that such a study is appropriate.

The Bureau of the Budget has advised us that it has no objection to the submission of this report.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to comment on this bill.

Sincerely yours,

ALAN T. WATERMAN, *Director.*

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT,
BUREAU OF THE BUDGET,
Washington, D. C., June 25, 1956.

HON. CLAIR ENGLE,

*Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.*

MY DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This will acknowledge your letter of June 11, 1956, requesting the views of the Bureau of the Budget on House Joint Resolution 643, a joint resolution to provide for an investigation of the need for a geophysical institute in the Territory of Hawaii.

The resolution authorizes and directs the National Science Foundation to conduct an investigation into the need for and the feasibility and usefulness of a geophysical institute located in the Territory of Hawaii.

It should be pointed out that the National Science Foundation already has legal authority to conduct investigations into the need for basic research facilities. The Bureau does not, however, object to enactment of the proposed joint resolution which directs that such a study be undertaken.

Sincerely yours,

ROBERT E. MERRIAM,
Assistant to the Director.

The Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs recommends enactment of House Joint Resolution 643.